

Message Text

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ACTION OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 INT-05 COME-00 OES-03 SMI-01 L-03

IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2032

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, JA

SUBJ: JAPANESE WHALING

1. AT RECEPTION EVEING JULY 28 FOR FISHERIES TEAM, JAPANESE WHALING REPRESENTATIVES FROM TAIYO AND NIPPON SUISAN REQUESTED VIEWS OF TEAM ON WHALING ISSUE. THEY WERE INFORMED THAT PUBLIC SENTIMENT IN U.S. FOR MORATORIUM ON WHALING HAS NOT DIMINISHED DESPITE PROGRESS MADE AT JUNE IWC MEETING AND IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF JAPAN WERE TO PUBLICLY STATE ITS SUPPORT OF IWC'S RECOMMENDATIONS ASAP RATHER THAN WAIT OUT 90-DAY PERIOD.

2. IN RESPONSE TO WHETHER THERE MAY BE DEMONSTRATIONS AT TIME OF EMPEROR'S VISIT TO U.S., THEY WERE TOLD THAT USG WAS DISCOURAGING SUCH DEMONSTRATIONS BUT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ASSURE JAPAN THAT SUCH DEMONSTRATIONS WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF PERHAPS PM MIKI AT TIME OF U.S. VISIT COULD MAKE POSITIVE STATEMENT ACCEPTANCE OF IWC'S RECOMMENDATIONS SINCE THIS WOULD SERVE TO IMMEDIATELY CLEAR CONCERN PARTICULARLY IN PUBLIC SECTOR REGARDING JAPANESE INTENTIONS.

3. OHKUCHI, JAPANESE ICNAF COMMISSIONER, WHO ATTENDED JUNE IWC MEETING PRIVATELY INFORMED TEAM THAT GOJ IN DIFFICULT POSITION AND IS HESITANT TO MAKE OFFICIAL STATEMENT INDICATING FULL SUPPORT OF IWC'S RECOMMENDATIONS DUE TO DOMESTIC POLITICAL

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SITUATION. HOWEVER, HE AS FORMER VICE MINISTER AND PRESENTLY

AS A SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE OF FISHING INDUSTRY OCCUPIED UNIQUE POSITION AND HE HAD NO HESITANCY OF STATING JAPAN'S VIEWS ON WHALING ISSUE AND AFFIRMED THAT JAPAN WILL NOT OBJECT TO IWC'S RECOMMENDATION.

4. FYI. RECEPTION PRIMARILY INVOLVED ON JAPANESE SIDE REPRESENTATIVES OF COMPANIES AND ASSOCIATIONS OPERATING TRAWL AND LONGLINE VESSELS IN NORTHEAST PACIFIC AND EASTERN BERING SEA. TEAM INFORMED BY GOJ THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF WHALING INDUSTRY REQUESTED SPECIAL INVITATION TO RECEPTION SO AS TO HAVE OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS WHALING ISSUE WITH TEAM.
SHOESMITH

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